

Your Provisional League Fixtures, Pages 6, 7



SOCCER STAR

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VOL. 1. No. 6

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1988

FAX: 527-6533

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PRICE: \$1.40

BLUES GO PLASTIC

AMBITIOUS Caulfield City has stolen a march on the rest of Victoria's clubs, and probably on all Australian clubs too, by switching Saturday's State League fixture with Springvale City to the new synthetic surface at Olympic Park No.2.

Olympic Park management converted its second pitch from grass to synthetic at a cost of

By LES SHORROCK

half a million dollars in June last year after sending Ground Manager Roger Hampson on a European feasibility tour.

Hampson inspected the pitches at Luton Town and Queens Park Rangers as well as similar complexes in Holland, Belgium and West Germany.

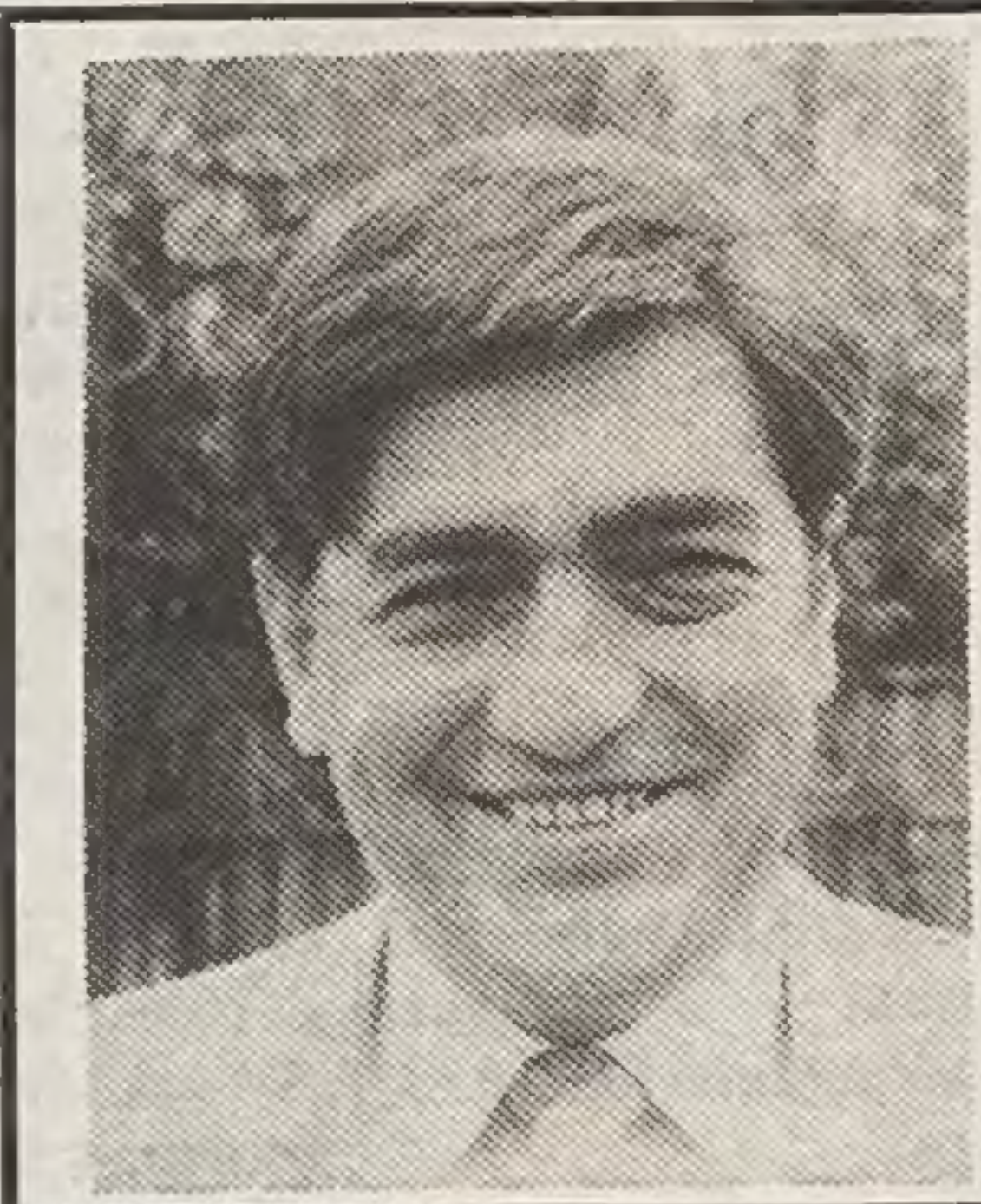
On his recommendation, the plastic pitch

was laid at No.2 and since then has been used for gridiron, hockey and lacrosse.

Both Juventus and Melbourne Croatia have trained on it and found it satisfactory.

Mr George Zafiroopoulos, spokesman for Caulfield City, says his club is delighted to have the opportunity to play on No.2.

He says his club is very disappointed at the stance of Caulfield City Council, which seems unwilling to upgrade the facilities at its home ground in Princes Park.



YOU'RE OFFSIDE CRIES HAMPSON

PRESTON PROBLEMS

PRESTON Makedonla may not play its next National League game at Connor Reserve, Reservoir, on Sunday March 13 if a group of local residents has its way. On Monday 30 Reservoir rate-payers protested at the Preston Council meeting about the noise on match days and the inconvenience caused by motor vehicles parking in the area. Preston committee and supporters who have poured thousands of dollars into ground improvements are very concerned about the situation. The club's next home game is against Footscray.

OUR report last week on the ground invasion at Olympic Park during the South Melbourne v. Marconi NSL match ruffled a few feathers at headquarters.

A spokesman for the OPMC said the story was unfair and biased because it didn't represent Olympic Park's side of the proceedings.

For instance he points out that the ground was booked for athletics until 6 pm anyway, and that it was soccer clubs' refusal to kick off later that caused the confusion.

He also went to some pains to point out that it was not Olympic Park's policy to erect a fence on the three sides which still only has a low rail because Olympic Park is a multi-purpose facility and not solely for soccer.

By LES SHORROCK

On the vexed question of security he said it was OP's policy that maintaining security is the responsibility of the hiring body, be it the VSF, the ASF or the NSL.

"We only hire out the ground, it is up to the clubs playing there to keep their supporters in order" he says.

This will probably come as a surprise to South Melbourne for one. Its security Jim Armstrong said after the game that he thought there should have been more stewards available.

The problem there, says the Park spokesman, is that it costs \$60 for each steward working a four-hour shift on a Sunday.

"The clubs just can't afford to pay for security at those rates, in fact some clubs



● Roger Hampson

struggle just to pay the rent, let alone hire extra security."



Caulfield City souvenir — back page

JIM Patikas is back from AEK Athens to play for Australia against Israel at Olympic park on Sunday — but who will he replace?

If coach Frank Arok decides to use him in attack, Patikas would have to take the place of John Kosmina or Graham Arnold.

If he plays as an attacking midfielder, he would replace Mike Petersen.

Alternatively, he may start on the bench — but after coming half way round the world just to play in the Olympic series, that would not make much sense.

After all, he has been one of the top scorers in Greece and his explosiveness, skill and scoring ability would help offset the advantage Daniel Briarlovski gives Israel.

Briarlovski played for Independiente in Argentina and, after a \$350,000 transfer, helped America FC win the Mexican championship. He joined Maccabi Haifa three years ago.

Patikas has joined the Socceroos despite strong opposition from the AEK president who offered him \$30,000 to stay for important league matches against OFI and Larissa.

He now believes he no longer has a future in Greece because he defied

the president and did a moonlight flit.

My tip is that Patikas will come into midfield at the expense of Petersen.

The Socceroo squad to meet Israel is: goalkeepers, Jeff Oliver, Mike Gibson, defenders Alan Davidson, Alex Tobin, Charlie Yankos, Garry McDowall, Wally Savor, Robert Hooker, Alan Hunter, Andrew Koczka, midfielders Mike Petersen, Jim Patikas, Alan Wade, Oscar Crino, Graham Arnold, Tommy McCulloch, Strikers Frank Farina, David Mitchell, John Kosmina, Scott Ollerenshaw.

The Israeli squad is: Goalkeepers: Ban Zion Ginsburg (Maccabi Haifa), Itzak Hadad (Shimshon Tel Aviv).

Defenders: Moshe Shimonov (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Eli Cohen (Hapoel Tel Aviv), Nir Klingner (Maccabi Haifa), Avi Cohen (Glasgow Rangers), Nir Alon (Hapoel Petach Tiqva), Avraham Cohen (Betar Jerusalem), Yaron Par-

selani (Hapoel Petach Tiqva), Leor Rosenthal (Maccabi Haifa).

Midfielders: Uri Millan (Betar Jerusalem), Roni Rosenthal (Bruges), Daniel Briarlovski (Maccabi Haifa), Mordechai Iwanir (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Avi Ovadia (Shimshon Tel Aviv).

Forwards: Ephraim Davadi (Hapoel Beer-sheba), Shalom Tikva (Maccabi Netanya), Moshe Izenberg (Beni Yehuda), Eli Drieks (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Nir Levin (Hapoel Petach Tiqva).

In 1969, Israel beat Australia by a goal over two matches to qualify for the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico, after the Socceroos had won qualifying matches in South Korea and Mozambique.

In 1985, the Socceroos eliminated Israel but faltered at the final hurdle, against Scotland. But the two countries must be the most evenly matched in world soccer. They have played each

Where will Jim Patikas play?

By Laurie Schwab

other 14 times, with Australia holding a one-day match advantage, with four wins, six draws, three losses and a goals tally of 14:14.

★★★ Three Socceroos reached personal milestones in the 3-0 victory over Taipei in Canberra last Friday night.

Alan Davidson and Charlie Yankos each played his 30th full international for Australia while Oscar Crino notched up his 50th game for the Socceroos, counting all appearances, including those against club rather than national teams.

★★★ But while New Zealand coach Kevin Fallon has lost Hagan, he has gained striker Colin Walker who returned from Sheffield Wednesday a few months ago to become player-coach of Fallon's former club, Gisborne City. While contracted to Sheffield Wednesday, Walker

actually was loaned out to Doncaster Rovers and Torquay.

The New Zealand squad is:

Goalkeepers: Clint Gosling (Melita Eagles, NSW), Grant Schofield (Papatoetoe).

Defenders: Richard Mulligan (Gisborne City), Shane Rufer (FC Aurau, Switzerland), Ceri Evans (Christchurch Utd), Malcolm Dunford (DB Wellington), Paul Bryden (Papatoetoe), Ricki Herbert (Mt Wellington), Robert Ironside (Sydney Olympic), Chris Zoricic (Papatoetoe).

Midfielders: Danny Halligan (Christchurch Utd), Paul Halford (Brisbane Lions), Declan Edge (Mt Maunganui), Duncan Cole (Nth. Sore Utd), Grant Turner (Wellington Utd), Kim Wright (Nth. Shore Utd), Mike McGarry (Dunedin City).

Strikers: Fred de Jong (Marconi), Colin Walker (Gisborne City), Paul

Nixon (Gisborne City), Noel Barkley (Papatoetoe). One of those has to be omitted to reduce the squad to the allowable 20.

★★★ The Olympic qualifying programme is:

March 6 at Olympic Park, 6.30 pm: New Zealand v. Chinese Taipei or Western Samoa (depending on play-off yesterday, March 3); 8.30pm Australia v. Israel.

March 9 at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide, 7pm: New Zealand v. Israel; 9pm: Australia v. Chinese Taipei or Western Samoa.

March 13 at Sydney Stadium, 2pm: Israel v. Chinese Taipei or Western Samoa; 4pm: Australia v. New Zealand.

March 20 in Christchurch: New Zealand v. Taiwan or Western Samoa, Australia v. Israel.

March 23 in Wellington: New Zealand v. Australia, Israel v. C. Taipei or Western Samoa.

March 27 in Auckland: New Zealand v. Israel, Australia v. C. Taipei or Western Samoa.

But in the NSL they were opponents until last week.

Selemidis spent 11 seasons with Alexander after switching from Hellas where he played junior soccer in the company of Kris Kalifatidis, Lou Tsigras, Kyri Kyriakoulas and Steve Kakan-tonis. Davidson joined Hellas from Altona City in 1979, returned to the club after a stint with Nottingham Forest and now is with Croatia.

It was due to the support of Davidson and the other Australian players that Socceroo coach Rudi Gutendorf was persuaded to forgive Selemidis for an indiscretion during the Ocean Cup and reinstate him for the semi-final and final.

Selemidis told the story for the first time this week.

"At our hotel in Noumea, we were under orders not to go swimming in the pool because Rudi believed we should conserve our energy for the matches," Selemidis said.

"We all went into the pool anyway, with a look-out posted to warn us when Rudi approached."

"When the look-out gave the word, everyone managed to get out and go to their rooms but I was on the far side of the pool and all I could do was hide behind a tree."

"Rudi went to very room to check on the players, and obviously I was missing."

"When I did get to my room, I went in the

back door, straight into the shower and when Rudi called again, I came out claiming I had been in the shower all the time.

"He didn't go for it and dropped me from the first two matches."

"It wasn't until the other players had a meeting with him and pleaded my case that he relented and put me into the team for the last two matches."

Selemidis and Davidson were the heroes of a 3-3 draw with Greece in the first match of the Socceroos' 1980 world tour.

Davidson, playing in midfield, marked the legendary Mimis Domazos and Selemidis, coming on as a substitute, scored a goal two minutes from the end to put Australia ahead 3-2. However, a home-town refereeing decision gave Greece a last-minute penalty that tied the score.

Juventus, George Cross and Footscray JUST also were in the

bidding for Selemidis before Croatia signed him up.

About reports that he demanded an exorbitant salary to play for George Cross, he said: "Look I experienced the disappointment of relegation with Alexander, so if I was going to play for another struggling side, it had to be worth my while financially."

JUST would have been interested in swapping its disgruntled left back, Eddie Campbell, for Selemidis, as Alexander has been looking for a left back since the start of the season.

Campbell, incidentally, is still available. His \$15,000 transfer from Juventus at the start of 1987 makes him the third most expensive full back in Australian soccer, after Graham Jennings (\$25,000) and Peter Lewis (\$18,000).

Continued Page 4

THEO, DAVO BACK IN BUSINESS

WHEN Theo Selemidis switched from Heidelberg-Alexandra to Melbourne Croatia last week, he resumed a partnership that has spanned the globe.

Selemidis and Croatia star Alan Davidson have played together in Paraguay, Brazil, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Greece, England, Italy, Yugoslavia, Israel, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

They first teamed up in the national youth team of 1978-79, they helped Australia win the 1980 Oceania Cup and they were on the Socceroos' 1980 world tour.

But in the NSL they were opponents until last week.

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"When I did get to my room, I went in the

Laurie Schwab looks at Selemidis' return to the Big Time.



Alan Davidson teaming up with Selemidis again.

PETKOVSKI CAN MIX IT

MAKEDONIA'S star recruit, Saso Petkovski, is well aware that Australian defenders can be thoroughly brutal.

"I'm happy to play it tough if my opponents want to be tough," he said. "All I need is to have all the Macedonian fans behind me, and I can handle anything."

Petkovski said that he became accustomed to physical soccer in the Macedonian State League where, playing with Skopje, he scored 14 goals in one season before returning to Vardar Skopje where he had started as a seven-year-old.

At Vardar, however, he sat on the bench, playing second fiddle to the club's top scorer, Darko Pancev. And so, while Australia's top players — Patikas, Krncevic, Kalantzis, Mitchell — head for Europe to make their mark, Petkovski took the opposite route.

"I didn't have a chance to replace Pancev, so I took the offer from Melbourne — especially since it came from a Macedonian club," he said through interpreter Steve Georgievski, the Macedonia team manager.

"Now I have to prove to Vardar with my performances that I am good enough to play for them and I hope that they call me back after I have finished my one-year contract here."

SEKI BEAT RIVERA

CAME across the voting for the European Player of the Year Award conducted by the Paris-based "France Football" journal in 1982.

It reinforced the greatness of Dragoslav Sekularac, who coached Footscray JUST in 1986 and 1987.

In the poll, soccer writers in 19 countries rated Sekularac in fourth place, ahead of such legendary stars as Gianni Rivera, Jimmy Greaves, Raymond Kopa, Denis Law, Florian Albert and



Theo Selemidis

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Jim Patikas... back home to play for the Socceroos.

Schwab on the Socceroos, see Page 2

HOW THEY STAND

NSL LEAGUE TABLE

Wollongong	5	3	2	0	10	4	8
Syd. Croatia	5	4	0	1	8	5	8
Marconi	5	3	0	2	12	8	6
Syd. Olympic	5	2	2	1	6	2	6
Sth. Melb.	5	1	4	0	5	2	6
Melb. Croatia	5	2	2	1	6	7	6
B. Juventus	5	1	3	1	6	6	5
George Cross	5	2	1	2	7	12	5
St. George	5	2	0	3	11	8	4
Footscray	5	1	2	2	5	5	4
APIA Leich.	5	2	0	3	5	8	4
Bris. Lions	5	1	1	3	7	10	3
Preston Mak.	5	0	3	2	0	3	3
Adelaide C.	5	0	2	2	2	10	2

N.Y.L. LADDER

Sth. Melb.	5	3	2	0	17	5	8
Preston	5	4	0	1	16	5	8
Clarinda	5	4	0	1	13	6	8
Sunshine G.X.	4	3	0	1	13	4	6
BU Juventus	5	2	1	2	11	9	5
Oakleigh	4	1	3	0	11	10	5
Melb. Croatia	5	1	3	1	9	9	5
Footscray	5	2	1	2	6	8	5
Caulfield City	5	2	1	2	7	10	5
Haidelberg UTD	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
Clifton Hill	5	0	3	2	9	17	3
Nonawading City	5	0	1	4	4	20	1
Wav./Mulg. UTD	4	0	0	4	4	14	0

THIS WEEKEND'S NSL GAMES

Saturday March 5

WOLLONGONG CITY v MARCONI
at BRANDON PARK K.O. 6 pm

BRISBANE LIONS v SYDNEY CROATIA

at RICHLANDS K.O. 6 pm

SUNDAY MARCH 6

ST. GEORGE v SYDNEY OLYMPIC
at ST. GEORGE K.O. 6 pm

National Youth League — Round 6: Sunday March 6th, 1988.
Waverley/Mulgrave UTD v. Haidelberg Utd; Clifton Hill v.
Nonawading City 3.00 pm. Clarinda v. Oakleigh.

DAFCO WORLD SPORT

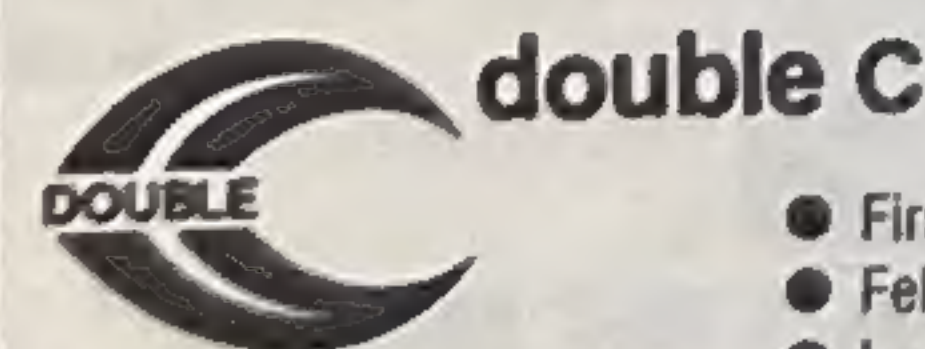


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NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

NSL ROUND FIVE

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 3 (McLaren 6th, Carter 24th, Markovski 54th) BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 3 (Palatsides 2nd, & 41st, Egan 70th).

At Chaplin Reserve, Sunday crowd 2,500, referee C. Bambridge. GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7 — Faulkner 6, Weddell 9, Kotzamichalis 7, Campelj 6 — Lennon 6, Carter 7, McLaren 7, Markovski 7 — Markovac 7, Clark 9. Coach John Gardiner. JUVENTUS: Marrama 6 — Lewis 4, McDowall 7, Brown 6, Marley 7 — Durakovic 5 (Lane 66th), Incantalupo 5, Zinni 5, Petersen 4 — Palatsides 8, Egan 7. Coach Len McKendry. Ratings by Les Shorrocks.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Milosevic 88th) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0.

At Olympic Park Sunday. Crowd 2,500 approx. referee J. Fraser, cautions Heys (M.C.), Dimovski (P.M.). MELBOURNE CROATIA: Oliver 8 — Heys 7, Davidson 7, Dobson 6, Donnelly 6 — Biskic 8, Scott 6, Milosevic 9, Selemidis 6 (Valentic 60th) — Lewis 7 (Talajic 73rd), Murphy 7. Coach Ian Wallace. PRESTON: Traianides 6 — Ilioski 6, Jackson 6, Tasevski 6, Roodhouse 6 — Petrov 7, Dimovski 4, Stewart 7, Gojcevic 5 — Petkovski 6 (Brian 62nd), Smith 5. Coach Ernie Merrick. Ratings by Angelo Sticca.

FOOTSCRAY 0 WOLLONGONG CITY 0.

At Schintler Reserve, Sunday crowd 2861, referee J. Rossis sent off Easthorpe (Woll). FOOTSCRAY: Nikitovic 6 — Murphy 7 — Deankovic 8, van Egmond 9 — Tapal 6, Karic 6, Bozinovski 7, Fabrizio 7 — Spink 7, Dimovski 6 (Mitrovski 75th), Lujic 7. Coach Mirsad Fazlagic. WOLLONGONG: Young 8 — Skeen 9, Vlietstra 9, Ratcliffe 7, Morlando 7 — Stefanovski 5, Ainsworth 6, Cokely 5, Cranlie 5 — Easthorpe (sent off 26th), Giraldi 4. Coach John Fleming.

MARCONI 3 (Calderan 18th, Gray 36th, Farina 90th) ST. GEORGE 1 (Ollerenshaw 77th).

At Marconi Stadium Sunday. Referee R. Lorenc, cautions Calderan (Mar), Grbevski, Choi (St. George). MARCONI: Catlin 7 — Gomez 6, Henderson 7, Calderan 9, Wheatley 5 — Mason 7 (Carter 66th), McCulloch 8, Gray 6, Katholos 5 — Farina 6, Lowe 6. Coach Berti Mariani. ST. GEORGE: Gibson — Green, Moffitt, Choi, Grbevski (Ilic 67th) — Torteviski, Pottier, Hagan, Petkovski (O'Connor half-time) — Koczka, Ollerenshaw. Coach Frank Arok. Ratings by Berti Mariani.

APIA LEICHHARDT 2 (Tredinnick 36th, Phillips 69th) BRISBANE LIONS 0

at Wentworth Park, Sunday Crowd 1300, referee T. Seacey cautions Parison EAPIA) Wheeler, Dwyer (Lions). APIA: Pezzano — Brown, Yankos, Bertogna, de Marigny — Butler, Watson, Tredinnick (Parison 67th), Phillips, Zajmi (McKinna 71st), Ward. Coach Rale Rasic. LIONS: Kearton — Niven, Liddell, Stewart, Mengotti — Bassingthwaite (Kirsopp 70th), Meredith, Ogden, Wheeler — Lightbown, Cummings 25th), Dwyer. Coach Juan Cutillas.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

at Parramatta Stadium, Crowd 3884, Referee R. Davies. SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier — Barrett, Dakos, Koch (Polak 53rd) Hooker — Saad, Pontidas (Patalis 81st), Phillips, Lee — Soper, Kosmin. Coach Eddie Thomson. SOUTH MELBOURNE: Giatas — Russell — Healy, Briar, Postecoglou — Wade, Tasios, Foster (Micheil 81st), Tzolakis — Trimboli, Wright. Coach Brian Garvey.

SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Foster 57th) ADELAIDE CITY 0

at Croatian Sports Centre, Crowd 3595, Referee J. McConnell. SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken — Rozic, Jones, Hunter — Savor, Clinch — Petkovic, Arnold, Ingham (Forster 56th) — Slater (Rezo 88th), Krslovic. Coach Vedran Rozic. ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica — Shillabeer, Nyskohus, Flounders, Tobin — Melta, Santrac, Villani, Vidmar — Mullen, Maxwell (Miller 74th). Coach Zoran Matic.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

Nonawading City 0 v. Clarinda 3; Footscray 2 v. Clifton Hill 2; Woll. Croatia 0 v. Preston 3; Bye Haidelberg Utd; Sunshine G.X. 0 v. BU Juventus 2; Oakleigh 2 v. Sth. Melbourne 2; Wav./Mulg. UTD 1 v. Caulfield City 2.

TOP GOALSCORERS: 6. Farina (Mar), 3 Easthorpe (Woll), Egan, Palatsides (Juve), P. Murphy (M. Cro), Ollerenshaw (St. Geo), Spink (Foots), 2 Ainsworth (1 pen, Woll), Clark, McLaren (S.G.X.), Crino (Foots), Gray (Mar), Koczka (St. Geo), Lewis (2 pen.), Lightbown (Lions), Pontidas (Olymp), R. Stewart (2 pen. Lions), Trimboli (South).

Your Star Victorian League round-up

Essendon aims for State League

FIRST Division Victorian League team, Essendon City, are cautiously preparing for the big kick-off next month.



David Vesnaver... negotiating with Essendon City.

By Angelo Sticca

which saw the team go undefeated for the first six games before finishing 8th in the table, then 1988 should prove to be a fruitful season.

Promotion to State League would be the perfect gift when the club celebrates its 30th anniversary next year.

Moreland prepares

MORELAND Park Rangers, in the third division of the Victorian League, is hoping to strengthen its squad for the kick-off.

According to committeeman and player Lou Vaccaro, an ex-Juventus and Broadmeadows player, the club is looking for more players in order to build up a strong squad to ensure that the team clinches a spot in the top four on the table, in order to escape the new rationalisation of the major leagues.

"Moreland Park Rangers has a proud history and this year we will be trying hard to maintain it," said Mr Vaccaro.

And so it has. Established in 1936, Moreland has played at Campbell Reserve for 52 years, and some of its honours include winning the Dockerty Cup in 1941, 1945 and 1957.

In 1985, it amalgamated with Park Rangers, who were established in 1945 and whose honours include winning the Dockerty Cup in 1948 and 1949. Moreland also had one of its players, C. Loughran, represent Australia in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

This year sees the club under the leadership of a new committee which comprises both playing and non-playing members, with Rob Murdoch as President.

On the coaching side, Mick Wilson will be at the helm of the team.

His experience in soccer is redoubtable—six years with Hibernian F.C. in the Scottish Premier League, one year with Sparta United in South Africa, two years with George Cross, two with Albion Rovers, and three years with Broadmeadows.

This year the club has five junior teams playing at Wallace Reserve in Glenroy, and hopes are that these teams will provide a solid base upon which the club can grow in the future.

The club is concerned with increasing the sizes of the respective squads in order to make 1988 a successful season.

Being a multicultural club, the invitation is open to all players to come and join a proud club with a proud history to maintain.

Crowd turns nasty after replay decision

UGLY soccer crowd scenes marred a tension-packed Geelong Advertiser Cup final.

North Geelong snatched a last-grasp equaliser against host club Bell Park to tie the match at one-all.

But as North Geelong supporters swamped the ground to congratulate the players, their jubilation turned to anger when told the game would not go to extra time.

Bell Park president, Mr Tim Cuell, was jostled and spat on by a spectator as he spoke to the crowd over the public address system.

In the worst scenes seen at a Geelong Advertiser Cup tournament, the crowd continually heckled Mr Cuell as he tried to explain the rules.

North Geelong team-

By Paul Millar

manager, Mr Steve Horvat, tried to relieve the tension by addressing spectators, but his voice was drowned out by booing.

The no extra-time rule was introduced after Corio won the trophy in near darkness in 1982.

All clubs in the series voted on the decision.

Mico Brandich was the hero of North Geelong as the pint-sized midfielder popped up to snatch a last-minute equaliser.

The game will be replayed next Wednesday.

In a tension-packed game, Bell Park for once settled first, leaving the cup final nerves to North Geelong.

Park was controlling

its defence with ease as

John Hrkac was obviously carrying an injury and looked lost without the support of Wally Stojanovski, who this week transferred to Corio-Geelong United.

In a game where clear-cut chances were scarce it became obvious a half chance could secure the cup.

Cumming fired in a low drive which was deflected to Paul Mills and the striker rattled it into the net with 10 minutes of the half remaining.

Robert Cosic then gave the North forwards a shooting lesson powering his way through the Park midfield drilling an angled drive the wrong side of the post.

The pace never stopped and a single goal separated the sides as they went into the second half.

Paul Mills sent a volley

whistling across the goal-

mouth and Cumming then tested Con Dimopoulos with a fierce drive which the keeper did well to cover.

However, it was Park that was beginning to show signs of wear as players cramped in the heat.

John Coutts hit a 30-metre drive which Savi tipped over the bar as Park hung onto its lead.

It was all North Geelong at this stage and the crowd sensed an equaliser. With time ticking away North pushed forward in numbers and Park started to look worried.

A barrage of drives failed to beat Savi and it looked like the white ribbon of Bell Park would adorn the cup.

But the Park following had forgotten about Brandich as had the Bell Park defence.

As a loose ball rico-

cheted around the defence, tucking the ball penalty area Brandich into the net to level the burst through the packed scores.

RICOH DOCKERTY CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND

THE following is the Draw for the next Preliminary Round of the Ricoh Dockerty Cup to be played on Saturday March 5th 1988. Kick off 3 pm.

Springvale United v. Mordialloc; Lalor United v. Coburg; Albion v. Port Melbourne; Doncaster Rovers v. Essendon City; Pascoe Vale v. Seaford United; Rosanna v. Chelsea; Mooroolbark v. Ringwood United; Dandenong v. Langwarrin; Yallourn v. Clarinda; Nunawading City v. Warragul; Waverley City v. Clifton Hill; East Brunswick/Ivanhoe v. Werribee; Westgate v. Bell Park; Yarraville v. Hawthorn Citizens; Prahran/Brighton v. Corio-Geelong United.

Games shall be 2x45 minute duration with an interval. In the event that the game is drawn after full time, an extra time period of 2x10 minutes each way shall be played, if still a draw after extra time has been played the game is still drawn, the taking of penalty kicks in accordance with the Laws of the Game shall be taken to decide the winner.

As a loose ball rico-

cheted around the defence, tucking the ball

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE FIXTURES 1988

DIVISION ONE

ROUND ONE (SAT. 2nd APRIL 1988)

Ballarat v. Ardeer
Central City v. West Meadows
Clayton v. Regent
Diamond Valley United v. Prahran
Malvern City v. Brunswick City
Melton v. Mossfield
North Sunshine v. Bye

ROUND TWO (SAT. 9th APRIL 1988)

Mossfield v. North Sunshine
Brunswick City v. Melton
Prahran v. Malvern City
Regent v. Diamond Valley United
West Meadows v. Clayton
Bye v. Ballarat
Ardeer v. Central City

ROUND THREE (SAT. 16th APRIL 1988)

Central City v. Ballarat
Clayton v. Ardeer
Diamond Valley Utd v. West Meadows
Malvern City v. Regent
Melton v. Prahran
North Sunshine v. Brunswick City
Mossfield v. Bye

ROUND FOUR (SAT. 23rd APRIL 1988)

Brunswick City v. Mossfield
Prahran v. North Sunshine
Regent v. Melton
West Meadows v. Malvern City
Bye v. Central City
Ardeer v. Diamond Valley United
Ballarat v. Clayton

ROUND FIVE (SAT. 30th APRIL 1988)

Clayton v. Central City
Diamond Valley United v. Ballarat
Malvern City v. Ardeer
Melton v. West Meadows
North Sunshine v. Regent
Mossfield v. Prahran
Brunswick City v. Bye

ROUND SIX (SAT. 7th MAY 1988)

Prahran v. Brunswick City
Regent v. Mossfield
West Meadows v. North Sunshine
Bye v. Clayton
Ardeer v. Melton
Ballarat v. Malvern City
Central City v. Diamond Valley United

ROUND SEVEN (SAT. 14th MAY 1988)

Diamond Valley United v. Clayton

Malvern City v. Central City
Melton v. Ballarat
North Sunshine v. Ardeer
Mossfield v. West Meadows
Brunswick City v. Regent
Prahran v. Bye

ROUND EIGHT (SAT. 21st MAY 1988)

Regent v. Prahran
West Meadows v. Brunswick City
Bye v. Diamond Valley United
Ardeer v. Mossfield
Ballarat v. North Sunshine
Central City v. Melton
Clayton v. Malvern City

ROUND NINE (SAT. 28th MAY 1988)

Malvern City v. Diamond Valley United
Melton v. Clayton
North Sunshine v. Central City
Mossfield v. Ballarat
Brunswick City v. Ardeer
Prahran v. West Meadows
Regent v. Bye

ROUND TEN (SAT. 4th JUNE 1988)

West Meadows v. Regent
Bye v. Malvern City
Ardeer v. Brunswick City
Ballarat v. Mossfield
Clayton v. North Sunshine
Diamond Valley United v. Melton

ROUND ELEVEN (SAT. 11th JUNE 1988)

Melton v. Malvern City
North Sunshine v. Diamond Valley United
Mossfield v. Clayton
Brunswick City v. Central City
Prahran v. Ballarat
Regent v. Ardeer
West Meadows v. Bye

ROUND TWELVE (SAT. 18th JUNE 1988)

Bye v. Melton
Ardeer v. West Meadows
North Sunshine v. Regent
Central City v. Prahran
Clayton v. Brunswick City
Diamond Valley United v. Mossfield
Malvern City v. North Sunshine

ROUND THIRTEEN (SAT. 25th JUNE 1988)

North Sunshine v. Melton
Mossfield v. Malvern City
Brunswick City v. Diamond Valley United
Prahran v. Clayton
Regent v. Central City
West Meadows v. Ballarat
Bye v. Ardeer

ROUND FOURTEEN (SAT. 2nd JULY 1988)

Ardeer v. Ballarat
West Meadows v. Central City
Regent v. Clayton/Prahran v. Diamond Valley
Brunswick City v. Malvern City
Mossfield v. Melton
Bye v. North Sunshine

ROUND FIFTEEN (SAT. 9th JULY 1988)

North Sunshine v. Mossfield
Melton v. Brunswick City
Malvern City v. Prahran
Diamond Valley United v. Regent
Clayton v. West Meadows
Ballarat v. Bye
Central City v. Ardeer

ROUND SIXTEEN (SAT. 16th JULY 1988)

Ballarat v. Central City
Ardeer v. Clayton
West Meadows v. Diamond Valley Un.
Regent v. Malvern City
Prahran v. Melton
Brunswick City v. North Sunshine
Bye v. Mossfield

ROUND SEVENTEEN (SAT. 23rd JULY 1988)

Mossfield v. Brunswick City
North Sunshine v. Prahran
Melton v. Regent
Malvern City v. West Meadows
Central City v. Bye
Diamond Valley United v. Ardeer
Clayton v. Ballarat

ROUND EIGHTEEN (SAT. 30th JULY 1988)

Central City v. Clayton
Ballarat v. Diamond Valley United
Ardeer v. Malvern City
West Meadows v. Melton
Regent v. North Sunshine
Prahran v. Mossfield
Bye v. Brunswick City

ROUND NINETEEN (SAT. 6th AUGUST 1988)

Brunswick City v. Prahran
Mossfield v. Regent
North Sunshine v. West Meadows
Clayton v. Bye
Melton v. Ardeer
Malvern City v. Ballarat
Diamond Valley United v. Central City

ROUND TWENTY (SAT. 13th AUGUST 1988)

Clayton v. Diamond Valley United
Central City v. Malvern City
Ballarat v. Melton
Ardeer v. North Sunshine
West Meadows v. Mossfield
Regent v. Brunswick City
Bye v. Prahran

ROUND TWENTYONE (SAT. 20th AUG.)

Prahran v. Regent
Brunswick City v. West Meadows
Diamond Valley United v. Bye
Mossfield v. Ardeer
North Sunshine v. Ballarat
Melton v. Central City
Malvern City v. Clayton

ROUND TWENTYTWO (SAT. 27th AUG.)

Diamond Valley United v. Malvern City
Clayton v. Melton
Central City v. North Sunshine
Ballarat v. Mossfield
Ardeer v. Brunswick City
West Meadows v. Prahran
Bye v. Regent

ROUND TWENTYTHREE (SAT. 3rd SEPT.)

Regent v. West Meadows
Malvern City v. Bye
Prahran v. Ardeer
Brunswick City v. Ballarat
Mossfield v. Central City
North Sunshine v. Clayton
Melton v. Diamond Valley United

ROUND TWENTYFOUR (SAT. 10th SEPT.)

Malvern City v. Melton
Diamond Valley United v. North Sunshine
Clayton v. Mossfield
Central City v. Brunswick City
Ballarat v. Prahran
Ardeer v. Regent
Bye v. West Meadows

ROUND TWENTYFIVE (SAT. 17th SEPT.)

Melton v. Bye
West Meadows v. Ardeer
Regent v. Ballarat
Prahran v. Central City
Brunswick City v. Clayton
Mossfield v. Diamond Valley United
North Sunshine v. Malvern City

ROUND TWENTYSIX (SAT. 24th SEPT.)

Melton v. North Sunshine
Malvern City v. Mossfield
Diamond Valley United v. Brunswick City
Clayton v. Prahran
Central City v. Regent
Ballarat v. West Meadows
Ardeer v. Bye

DIVISION THREE

ROUND ONE (SAT. 2nd APRIL 1988)

Ascot St Marks v. Forest Hill
Brintons v. Uni of Melb.
Carrum United v. South Springvale
Kensington United v. St Kilda
Meadow Park v. Ringwood Rovers
South Dandenong v. Port United
Parkmore v. Wantirna

ROUND TWO (SAT. 9th APRIL 1988)

Port United v. Parkmore
Ringwood Rovers v. South Dandenong
St Kilda v. Meadow Park
South Springvale v. Kensington United
Uni of Melbourne v. Carrum United
Wantirna v. Ascot St Marks
Forest Hill v. Brintons

ROUND THREE (SAT. 16th APRIL 1988)

Brintons v. Ascot St Marks
Carrum United v. Forest Hill
Kensington United v. Uni of Melbourne
Meadow Park v. South Springvale
South Dandenong v. St Kilda
Parkmore v. Ringwood Rovers
Port United v. Wantirna

ROUND FOUR (SAT. 23rd APRIL 1988)

Ringwood Rovers v. Port United
St Kilda v. Parkmore
South Springvale v. South Dandenong
Uni of Melbourne v. Meadow Park
Wantirna v. Brintons
Forest Hill v. Kensington United
Ascot St Marks v. Carrum United

ROUND FIVE (SAT. 30th APRIL 1988)

Carrum United v. Brintons
Kensington United v. Ascot St Marks
Meadow Park v. Forest Hill
South Dandenong v. Uni of Melbourne
Parkmore v. South Springvale
Port United v. St Kilda
Ringwood Rovers v. Wantirna

ROUND SIX (SAT. 7th MAY 1988)

St Kilda v. Ringwood Rovers
South Springvale v. Port United
Uni of Melbourne v. Parkmore
Wantirna v. Carrum United
Forest Hill v. South Dandenong
Ascot St Marks v. Meadow Park
Brintons v. Kensington United

ROUND SEVEN (SAT. 14th MAY 1988)

Kensington United v. Carrum United
Meadow Park v. Brintons
South Dandenong v. Ascot St Marks
Port United v. Forest Hill
Ringwood Rovers v. South Springvale
St Kilda v. Wantirna

ROUND EIGHT (SAT. 21st MAY 1988)

South Springvale v. St Kilda
Uni of Melbourne v. Ringwood Rovers
Wantirna v. Kensington United
Forest Hill v. Port United
Ascot St Marks v. Parkmore
Brintons v. South Dandenong
Carrum United v. Meadow Park

ROUND NINE (SAT. 28th MAY 1988)

Meadow Park v. Kensington United
South Dandenong v. Carrum United
Parkmore v. Brintons
Port United v. Ascot St Marks
Ringwood Rovers v. Forest Hill
St Kilda v. Uni of Melbourne
South Springvale v. Wantirna

ROUND TEN (SAT. 4th JUNE 1988)

Uni of Melbourne v. South Springvale
Wantirna v. Meadow Park
Forest Hill v. St Kilda
Ascot St Marks v. Ringwood Rovers
Brintons v. Port United
Carrum United v. Parkmore
Kensington United v. South Dandenong

ROUND ELEVEN (SAT. 11th JUNE 1988)

South Dandenong v. Meadow Park
Parkmore v. Kensington United
Port United v. Carrum United
Ringwood Rovers v. Brintons
St Kilda v. Ascot St Marks
South Springvale v. Forest Hill
Uni of Melbourne v. Wantirna

ROUND TWELVE (SAT. 18th JUNE 1988)

Wantirna v. South Dandenong
Forest Hill v. Uni of Melbourne
Ascot St Marks v. South Springvale
Brintons v. St Kilda
Carrum United v. Ringwood Rovers
Kensington United v. Port United
Meadow Park v. Parkmore

ROUND THIRTEEN (SAT. 25th JUNE 1988)

Parkmore v. South Dandenong
Port United v. Meadow Park
Ringwood Rovers v. Kensington United
St Kilda v. Carrum United
South Springvale v. Brintons
Uni of Melbourne v. Ascot St Marks
Wantirna v. Forest Hill

ROUND FOURTEEN (SAT. 2nd JULY 1988)

Forest Hill v. Ascot St Marks
Uni of Melbourne v. Brintons
South Springvale v. Carrum United
St Kilda v. Kensington United
Ringwood Rovers v. Meadow Park
Port United v. South Dandenong
Wantirna v. Parkmore

ROUND FIFTEEN (SAT. 9th JULY 1988)

Parkmore v. Port United
South Dandenong v. Ringwood Rovers

DIVISION TWO

ROUND ONE (SAT. 2nd APRIL 1988)

Ascot Vale City v. Berwick City
Batman United v. South Yarra
Cranbourne v. Springvale Condors
Dingley Utd v. Oakleigh Suburbs
East Geelong v. Monbulk
Glenroy v. Monash University
Lalor v. Waverley United

ROUND TWO (SAT. 9th APRIL 1988)

Monash University v. Lalor
Monbulk v. Glenroy
Oakleigh Suburbs v. East Geelong
Springvale Condors v. Dingley Utd
South Yarra v. Cranbourne
Waverley United v. Ascot Vale City
Berwick City v. Batman United

ROUND THREE (SAT. 16th APRIL 1988)

Batman United v. Ascot Vale City
Cranbourne v. Berwick City
Dingley/Skye Utd v. South Yarra
East Geelong v. Springvale Condors
Glenroy v. Oakleigh Suburbs
Lalor v. Monbulk
Monash University v. Waverley United

ROUND FOUR (SAT. 23rd APRIL 1988)

Monbulk v. Monash University
Oakleigh Suburbs v. Lalor
Springvale Condors v. Glenroy
South Yarra v. East Geelong
Waverley United v. Batman United
Berwick City v. Dingley/Skye Utd
Ascot Vale City v. Cranbourne

ROUND FIVE (SAT. 30th APRIL 1988)

Cranbourne v. Batman United
Dingley/Skye Utd v. Ascot Vale City
East Geelong v. Berwick City
Glenroy v. South Yarra
Lalor v. Springvale Condors
Monash University v. Oakleigh Suburbs
Monbulk v. Waverley United

ROUND SIX (SAT. 7th MAY 1988)

Oakleigh Suburbs v. Monbulk
Springvale Condors v. Monash University
South Yarra v. Lalor
Waverley United v. Cranbourne
Berwick City v. Glenroy
Ascot Vale City v. East Geelong
Batman United v. Dingley/Skye Utd

ROUND SEVEN (SAT. 14th MAY 1988)

Dingley/Skye Utd v. Cranbourne
East Geelong v. Batman United

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE FIXTURES 1988

Glenroy v. Ascot Vale City
Lalor v. Berwick City
Monash University v. South Yarra
Monbulk v. Springvale Condors
Oakleigh Suburbs v. Waverley United

ROUND EIGHT (SAT. 21st MAY 1988)

Springvale Condors v. Oakleigh Suburbs
South Yarra v. Monbulk
Waverley United v. Dingley/Skye Utd
Berwick City v. Monash University
Ascot Vale City v. Lalor
Batman United v. Glenroy
Cranbourne v. East Geelong

ROUND NINE (SAT. 28th MAY 1988)

East Geelong v. Dingley/Skye Utd
Glenroy v. Cranbourne
Lalor v. Batman United
Monash University v. Ascot Vale City
Monbulk v. Berwick City
Oakleigh Suburbs v. South Yarra
Springvale Condors v. Waverley United

ROUND TEN (SAT. 4th JUNE 1988)

South Yarra v. Springvale Condors
Waverley United v. East Geelong
Berwick City v. Oakleigh Suburbs
Ascot Vale City v. Monbulk
Cranbourne v. Monash University
Dingley/Skye Utd v. Glenroy

ROUND ELEVEN (SAT. 11th JUNE 1988)

Glenroy v. East Geelong
Lalor v. Dingley/Skye Utd
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Springvale Condors v. Berwick City
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ROUND TWELVE (SAT. 18th JUNE 1988)

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Ascot Vale City v. Springvale Condors
Batman United v. Oakleigh Suburbs
Cranbourne v. Monbulk
Dingley/Skye Utd v. Monash University
East Geelong v. Lalor

ROUND THIRTEEN (SAT. 25th JUNE 1988)

Lalor v. Glenroy
Monash University v. East Geelong
Monbulk v. Dingley/Skye Utd
Oakleigh Suburbs v. Cranbourne

ROUND TWENTYTHREE (SAT. 3rd SEPT.)

South Springvale v. Uni of Melbourne
Meadow Park v. Wantirna
St Kilda v. Forest Hill
Ringwood Rovers v. Ascot St Marks
Port United v. Brintons
Parkmore v. Carrum United
South Dandenong v. Kensington United

ROUND TWENTYFOUR (SAT. 10th SEPT.)

Meadow Park v. South Dandenong
Kensington United v. Parkmore
Carrum United v. Port United
Brintons v. Ringwood Rovers
Ascot St Marks v. St Kilda
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Wantirna v. Uni of Melbourne

ROUND TWENTYFIVE (SAT. 17th SEPT.)

South Dandenong v. Wantirna
Uni of Melbourne v. Forest Hill
South Springvale v. Ascot St Marks
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Port United v. Kensington United
Parkmore v. Meadow Park

ROUND TWENTYSIX (SAT. 24th SEPT.)

South Dandenong v. Parkmore
Meadow Park v. Port United
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Carrum United v. St Kilda
Brintons v. South Springvale
Ascot St Marks v. Uni of Melbourne
Forest Hill v. Wantirna

SOCCER STAR is published every Thursday by Soccer Star Pty. Ltd., incorporated in Victoria.

Distributed in Victoria by Magdiss Pty. Ltd., 250 Spencer St. Melbourne 3000.
EDITOR: Les Shorrocks.

Address all correspondence to: Soccer Star, 18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161.
Printer & Publisher: Les Shorrocks.
18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161.
Printed by Streamline Printers (03) 417-2766
Proprietor Soccer Star Pty. Ltd. 18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161.

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STATE LEAGUE ROUND-UP

THIS Saturday sees the first round of the State League for 1988.

With a six team relegation set up this year it is vital that all teams get away to a good start as a few bad results at the start of the season could lay the foundations for a long run home.

MORWELL FALCONS v.

CROYDON CITY

CROYDON City, a disappointing midtable at the end of last year after two successful years makes the long journey to the well fancied Morwell Falcons.

This game should have been a little later in the year as both sides are well fancied this year, both sides have made major changes over the close season and it could be that both will need a couple of games before we see the best from them.

Falcons have strengthened their squad with Kenny Drakeford, Dave Reynolds from New Zealand, Gerry Bennett from Polonia and striker John Sokoluk from the UK.

Croydon have also bought wisely gaining Andy Humble, Mirko Runje, Goran Runje, Gordon Flavell, Jim Campbell, Dave McIntosh and John Gabrielson.

All of these players have had National league experience except for Goran Runje from St Albans and after a blending time they will be a real threat.

This first game will probably end in a draw but these two will be right up there at the end of the year and what a game to start the year for the Valley.

GARY CUTLER PREVIEWS The State League First Round

BULLEEN v. THOMASTOWN

WHAT more could State League newcomer Bulleen have asked for than a first up tie at home against Italian rivals Thomastown?

Well it has had its wish and what a good game it promises to be. No doubt a huge crowd will turn out to see these two battle it out at the Veneto Club.

Bulleen has been quiet in the close season but has recruited well enough to give it a chance to be competitive in its first year in State league.

Fab Angele from Fawknor and Rob Krajacic from St Albans are the only name players to have gone to the club, the rest of the side will be made up of players who have helped the club get to the State league and they will now be given the chance to prove they are good enough to play in it.

Thomastown on the other hand boasts some of the most experienced players in the league. Bobby McGuinness and Russell Athersych will be a difficult pair to hold and at the back George McMillan will be directing things.

Under the guidance of Bill Murray it may be this experience that will decide the points at the end of the day.

Jimmy Rooney's men will be giving all they have but may find the Thomastown side a little strong on the day.

FAWKNER v. ST ALBANS

FAWKNER which finished third in last year's competition is keen to go two better this season and give itself the chance to make the jump to the NSL next year.

Coach Frank McAleer has established a sound squad with Dean Hennessy coming from Box Hill, and Kees Storm from Polonia.

Robbie Cullen from Juventus will give quality to the midfield and could be one key to the success of the club this year.

On the other hand St Albans has had one way traffic with its players, all outward.

Tony Vrzina has lost seven players from last season's squad, Mark Wilson, Dennis Morovic, Goran Runje, Rob Krajacic, Ned Batnovic and possibly Ivan Duzel to Croatia.

Vrzina has not been able to make any signings as yet and it looks as though St Albans could be a contender for the big drop.

Fawknor will be out to impress at Jukes Road in its first home game of the year and it will be too strong for the inexperienced St Albans side and should run out the winners.

★ ★ ★

GREEN GULLY v. OAKLEIGH

GREEN Gully, one of the successes of recent years in the State league faces a hard task this

season to continue the run of good years.

The reason, it has no one who can score goals, something it was done constantly over recent years.

Tommy Cumming, Joe Sweeney, Danny Zemunik have all moved on and Danny Ward is still in dispute and could well play against his old club this week if he can agree terms with Oakleigh before the weekend.

Gully are strong in the middle of the Park and at the back having gained Mark Wilson from St Albans to add to Steve Douglas, Colin Quigley, Joe O'Connell, and Steve McLelland to give new coach Willie Vassallo many options.

Oakleigh have been very late in getting organised this year but if they finalise the transfer of Danny Ward to partner Ally Dick up front they could cause problems for any defence.

Gully will prove hard to score against but with the club lacking strikers this game at Gully could turn out to be a little disappointing and probably fizzle out to a draw.

★ ★ ★

BOX HILL v. WESTERN SUBURBS

BOTH these sides are in for a long hard season unless they can improve their present squads.

Box Hill have lost Harry Hird who has retired and Dean Hennessy has gone to Fawknor. Andy McMillan has gone to Morwell leaving new coach John Brown with only one of his four defenders from last season and, although there are still a number of quality players at the club they may be too weak at the back to be a threat this year.

Alan Roodhouse and Barry Burton will

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battle all day in the middle of the park while Jim McBride can score goals. However, it is a long season and they may lack the depth in the squad later on.

Western Suburbs are sure to be in the same boat, they were in luck when they gained Andy Edwards from Sunshine George Cross half way through the year, and his goals saved them from relegation last year.

But Edwards is gone and with him goes Suburbs' main source of danger.

They also suffer from a lack of depth in the squad and although they have a few useful players they must be a candidate for the bottom six.

It will be a battle at Wembley Park with a draw looking the most likely outcome.

NORTHCOTE CITY v. MARIBYRNONG

MARIBYRNONG Polonia last year's champion faces a year of total contrast with this year the emphasis being on survival and not on winning the championship.

It travels to another relegation candidate Northcote City which will be under the guidance of Roy McLaren for the second time in 18 months.

Northcote has never been a happy hunting ground for Polonia and in the present situation I cannot see this year being any different.

Most of the strength from last year's squad has gone and new coach Jim McIntyre has a huge task to make the side competitive this year.

Aki Kotzamichalis has gone to George Cross, Gerry Bennett to Falcons, Kees Storm to Fawknor, Gordon Flavell to Croydon City and former coach Rob Nelson to Ringwood City.

Northcote on the other hand has lost Arthur Patinotic to Heidelberg and Juan Toro is thought to have retired.

Former Preston defender Martin Wooddall has joined the Northerners but the loss of Toro and Drakeford from the midfield will leave McLaren with little to work with and they are among the main candidates for the drop at the end of the year.

This game may be a battle of the relegation candidates with Northcote possibly coming out on top mainly due to the lack of time Polonia has had to prepare and not to the fact that they are a better side.

HEIDELBERG v. RINGWOOD CITY

HEIDELBERG Utd, still smarting from its relegation from the National league last year is keen to bounce straight back.

First up it travels to the newly promoted Ringwood City. As pre season favourite it should overcome what is considered to be a weak Ringwood side.

However new Ringwood coach Rob Nelson is well known for his clever tactics as last season's success shows.

The Bergers have lost several key figures from last season's side but have also gained some quality players to replace them.

STATE LEAGUE ROUND 1 Sat March 5th K.O. 3 pm

Morwell Falcons v. Croydon City
Northcote City v. Maribyrnong
Heidelberg United v. Ringwood City
Green Gully v. Oakleigh
Fawknor v. St Albans
Crauffield City v. Springvale City
Bulleen v. Thomastown
Box Hill v. Western Suburbs

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CAULFIELD v SPRINGVALE Preview — Page 16




YAKA BANOVIC
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Mackenzie picks his Socceroos

WHAT a pity that Eddie Krncevic didn't join the moonlight flight from Europe to Australia last weekend — the flight that carried Jim Patikas out of Greece and into hot water with AEK Athens.

Then this hour of self-indulgence which currently has me in its grip could run its course.

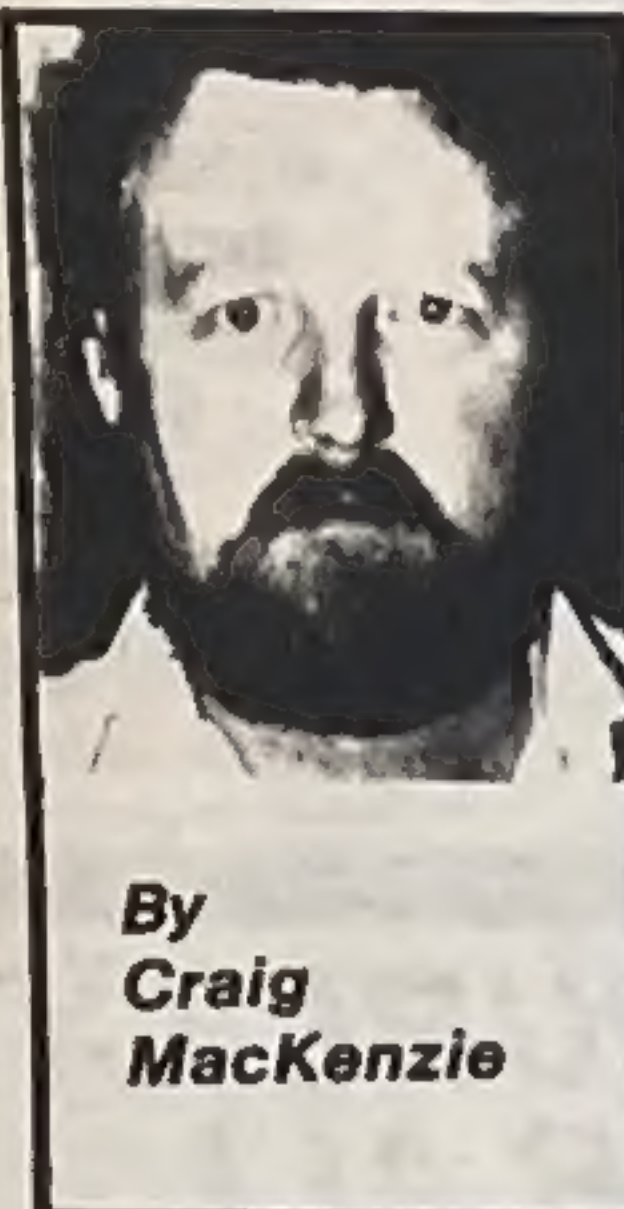
For those that haven't guessed, I'm about to play every soccer writer's favorite game — pick the national team.

It's easier for me to do it because I've got no clout whatsoever where it matters — in Sydney — so my judgements won't prejudice the chances of those champing at the bit to pull on a Socceroo strip.

I'm going to imagine that the tiff between Krncevic and Frank Arok no longer exists and that big Eddie is available for selection for the Olympic Games qualifying series that kicks off this weekend.

I'm also going to imagine that the ASF has used all of its considerable clout and that David Mitchell is available for every game too.

So, here it is, my national team: Jeff Oliver — Oscar Crino — Charlie Yankos, Garry McDowall, Arno



By
Craig
Mackenzie

Krncevic is a must

Bertogna, Alan Davidson — Jim Patikas, Paul Wade, Mike Petersen — Eddie Krncevic, David Mitchell.

I'm not going to waste space analysing Oliver's selection. He's the best we've got. It's as simple as that.

But those of you who noticed that Crino is selected as sweeper can stop laughing, pick yourself up off the floor and

give me a chance to explain.

For starters, I've always believed that a succession of national team coaches have sold us short in regard to the skill level available here.

And I've often wondered, when watching top-class overseas nations in action, why we can't find a libero, a player gifted in most aspects of the game with the ability to go forward almost at will.

There was a time when such a player emerged. It was back in 1981 on the occasion of the World Youth Championships in Australia.

Crino played for our youth team then, as a libero, and did so with considerable success. Less Scheinflug was the coach and I thought then that he had done Aus-

Continued Page 15



● Eddie Krncevic... one for the Socceroos.

Campbell is coming

MERRICK (.....and Preston) CAN'T WAIT

IF there is a more frustrated coach in the West End National League at the moment than Ernie Merrick, of Preston Makedonia, he has my sincere sympathy. But somehow it's impossible to imagine.

Preston has now played five league games and failed to score a goal and for a coach with a love of attacking soccer, nothing could be worse.

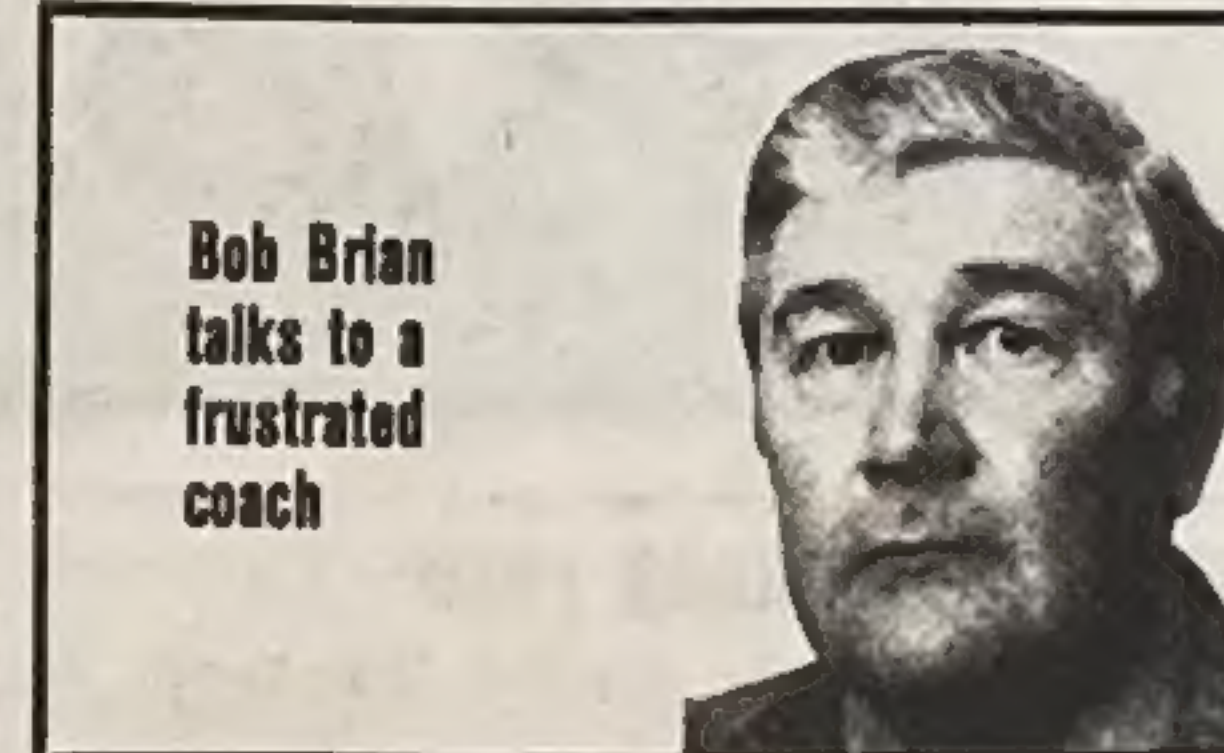
"I have never worked so hard with players on scoring goals," he says.

"And my players tell me they have never had so much shooting practice in their lives before."

"Everything works out fine at training, but goes terribly wrong in games. I just cannot understand it."

The introduction of new player Saso Petkovski from Yugoslavia did little to boost Merrick's confidence for the future although he refuses to blame his new striker for last Sunday's blank sheet.

"He will take time to settle in and it wouldn't be fair to judge him on



Bob Brian
talks to a
frustrated
coach

his first game," said Merrick.

"The really annoying thing is that the defence is playing so well and if we could only get the ball in the net we would be hard to beat."

"But you cannot expect to survive with only a good defence. It can't expect to last out every game without conceding a goal."

While Merrick still manages to put on a brave face, there is little doubt he is under considerable strain. Coaches have been sacked for less.

But there is a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel — the impending return of Ron Campbell.

"There is no doubt we have missed him,"

said Merrick. "You know, we failed to win one game last season when he wasn't playing and it's carried on this season."

"He still hasn't played for us because of his heel injury, but I am very hopeful that he will be back for our next game in two weeks."

Preston like all Melbourne clubs, has a free weekend because of the Olympic qualifying game against Israel at Olympic Park on Sunday.

"Ronnie has had a couple of runs with the youth team and he scored a goal."

"So I am keeping my fingers crossed that he will be ready for the first team when we play

Footscray at Connor Reserve on the 13th of March," said Merrick.

"He is obviously something of a good luck charm and we could really do with a change of luck."

But Merrick is not pinning all his faith on Campbell. He would like at least one new player, preferably a striker, and he will start looking around immediately.

One possibility is Stuart Stevenson, who has been put on the transfer list by South Melbourne Hellas at around \$12,000.

Stevenson would certainly live things up in the Preston attack and Merrick admits he likes his style.



● Ron Campbell waiting to return to the big time.

In the meantime, Merrick says he has over a week to sort a few things out and he intends to work hard on breaking the goal-scoring hoodoo which seems to have taken over his players.

"There is no point in letting it get us down. What we have to do is keep working at solving the problem," he says. "Maybe it will take a couple of players to freshen things up, but at the moment we are too good a team to be where we are in the league."

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● Gary Clark led the Georgie attack well.



● Les Carter concentrates.

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SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 1988

● Back Row (Left to Right): Tom Markovski, Gary Hasler, John Waddell, Sean Keogh, Aki Kotzamichalis, Robert Markovac.
Front Row: Mark Lennon, Don McLaren, John Campelj, Les Carter, Gary Clark, Jeff Faulkner, John Markovski.



● Jeff Faulkner retiring?



● John Waddell, impressive in his home debut.



● Sean Keogh foils Joe Palatsides.



● Speedy Mark Lennon.



● Big John and even bigger Aki.

LES SHORROCK'S Star Newsreel



● Aki Kotzamichalis keeps a watchful eye on Gary McDowall.

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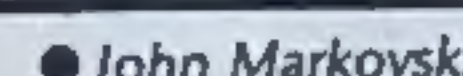
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— **Fred Fisher**

Man of the match:
DAVID SKEEN

Man of the match:
GARY MEIER

After a double-barrelled save from first Paul Trimboli and then Wright again Meier capped his day when he flew across his goal in the dying minutes to deny Trimboli yet again.

— Tom Tenorski

Man of the match:
JOHN WADDELL

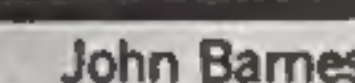
No... George Cross won't be relegated, in fact it will finish in the five!

Man of the match:
BRANKO MILOSEVIC

P.CODE

England striker Kerry Dixon

England striker Kerry Dixon



Some observers said the decision was a favor to the presidents of Italy's richest clubs, who are eager to strengthen their teams further with an influx of foreign talent.

it buys again and the first player to leave Stamford Bridge could well be former England striker Kerry Dixon.

LONDON: Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers are planning a £3m offer for Welsh scorers set Ian Rush.

Rangers player-manager Graeme Souness, a teammate of the Juventus striker in their days at Liverpool, is reported to have already had preliminary talks with the Italian club about bringing Rush back to Britain.

Souness, who has already spent over £5m on players, is now trying to set up a deal with sponsors to pay Rush's wages.

Garry McDowall says

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CAULFIELD v. SPRINGVALE

CAULFIELD City and Springvale City could fight out the most interesting match of Saturday's State League round one.

Caulfield, playing attractive open attacking soccer made a bold bid for State League championship last year and should be right in the thick of things again this year.

This is despite the loss of four important players in Angie Koutos, Harry Micheil, Con Pappas and Michael Hamakiotis.

Koutos' pairing with dual medal winner Paul Harris was one reason why the Blues were so hard to pass last year. However, Koutos has gone to Greece to try his luck there.

Promising left-back Harry Micheil has been snapped up by South Melbourne, and Con Pappas has returned to Heidelberg.

Pappas' departure has been a blow to Caulfield, because he is one of the deadliest finishers in the League as he showed when he came from the Bergers during last season.

He was also voted Player of the Series in the summer mini-world cup which was won by Greece.

Greatly under-rated Michael Hamakiotis has not re-signed, and coach Rocco Ille is hoping that goalkeeper Robert Madjer will have recovered from knee surgery in time for Saturday's game.

But there are some plusses too for Caulfield. After considering a move to another club, Paul Harris has re-signed and he will be paired at the back with new signing Caesar Fattore who comes from Fawkner with the highest credentials.

And to compensate for the loss of Pappas Caulfield has signed Richie Armstrong from Frankston Pines and Danny Zemunik is back too.

Zemunik, after looking the goods two years ago, had a miserable time with Green Gully, due mainly to a blood disorder. Now he's back fully fit, leaner than ever and raring to go, so goalkeepers had better look out.

Caulfield's strike force has also been reinforced by ex-Footscray star Bruno Cozzella.

Caulfield's opponent on Saturday, Springvale City has had a big clear-out since genial Gus MacLeod was appointed coach.

Springvale laboured somewhat last season, but MacLeod with the security of a two-year contract behind him is intent on building a completely new side.

He will have the benefit of Keith Adams, Springvale's captain who missed almost the whole of last season.

Greg House, Bob Morrey and Dennis Boland form an experienced backbone to the team, and Springvale will probably do well enough to keep clear of the relegation zone.

CAULFIELD CITY v. SPRINGVALE CITY at Olympic Park, No. 2. K.O. 3 p.m., Saturday March 5th



CAULFIELD CITY 1988

● Back Row (Left to Right): Angie Filipou, Phil Griffin, Paul Harris, Nick Koletsas, Mike Alexandropoulos, Con Chrysopoulos, Caesar Fattore, Danny Zemunik, Aki Alogoyiannis, Rocco Ille (coach).

Front Row: Con Boutsianas, Bruno Cozzella, John Bitsonis, Nick Deligiannis, Pepe Abraam, Andrew Theoharous, Peter Tsitiridis, Con Koutropoulos.
Missing: Robert Madjer, Richire Armstrong, Jim Sahinidis.

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